

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

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Wilmington District

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**Volume 21, Number 10
October 2001**

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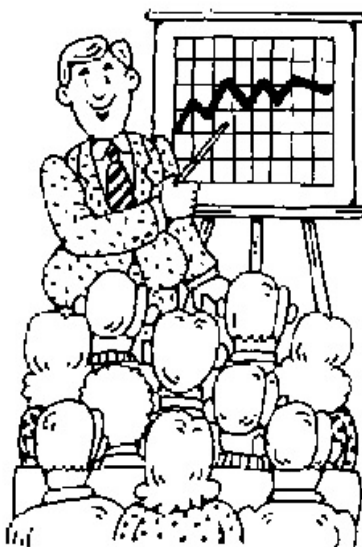
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Speaking Out



Steve Chapin, Asheville Regulatory Field Office, gave a presentation on wetland and stream regulations to about 30 local government officials from Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell Counties.

Regulatory Project Manager **David Franklin** gave a presentation at the USACE Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Environmental Streamlining Training held in Colorado Springs. His presentation topic was "Level of Detail Needed to Make Permit Decisions."

Shane Jones of Information Management spoke at the SAME monthly meeting about continuing professional education and Internet training sources.

Public Affairs Chief **Penny Schmitt** was listed among the Army's Top Writers by *Post 30*, an Army publication for communications professionals. Christine Bruske's District Newsletter piece entitled "Saving Sea Turtles" was recognized for Excellence in Verbal and Visual Presentation. ▲

Cover Photo:

*Wilmington District Engineer **Rolando Serrano**(on left) inspects the World Trade Center wreckage to determine structural stability and safety risks for rescue workers. Photo by **Al Bjorkquist**.*

District Recruits Students

By Christine Bruske



Wilmington District Chief of Technical Services Division Ben Wood discusses current job openings with a North Carolina A&T University student.

the career fields available throughout the South Atlantic Division. Students showed the strongest interest in the Federal Career Intern Program and our Student Employment Programs. Freshmen and sophomores also visited the booth in hopes of finding summer employment with future co-op or career development potential.

Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, came next on the schedule. Tom Corder accompanied representatives from SAD and the Norfolk District, who all promoted the “one door to the Corps” recruiting concept.

Tom Corder returned from Virginia just in time to attend the NC State University's Minority Career Fair with Terry Brown, Beverly Deering, and Jeff Whiting.

Finally, Ben Wood, Coleman Long, Angie Pennock, and Tonya Rabb attended Career Day at UNC-Wilmington.

The four recruiting trips yielded 122 resumes and 81 other potential applicants who signed our registration book. Now the process of follow-up and selection begins. When a candidate is hired, a District TEAM member will be appointed that person's sponsor. “We intend to do all we can to help our new recruits move smoothly from 'new guy or girl on the block' to TEAM member,” said Pierce. “They're all important to our future!” ▲

The 2001 Operations Plan set a goal for the District to make 12 contacts with area colleges and universities. We've met that goal. With an eye toward filling our intern and co-op vacancies, TEAM members went on the road this year participating in several college career fairs. “It's great to be in the recruiting business again,” said Susan Pierce, Chief of the Wilmington District Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC).

Ben Wood, Tom Corder, Beverly Deering, Tony Carter, and Jeff Whiting recently attended the Career Awareness Program at North Carolina A&T State University. “This university is a good source for minority candidates with outstanding talent and education,” said Tony Carter, a Corps TEAM member from Project Management. “There was a lot of interest in federal employment. Students started asking questions, even before we could get the display up, and the questions kept coming until we left that night.”

Partnering with Savannah District, our folks staffed a double booth displaying all



Wilmington District EEO Officer Beverly Deering and Human Resources Specialist Jeff Whiting provide job fair visitors with Corps project briefings and information on applying for federal jobs.



National Public Lands Day at Scott Lake

By Penny Schmitt

Photos by Scott Maners

Amid intense awareness that "freedom isn't free," 350 volunteers turned out to show their appreciation of our nation's beauty and natural resources by making improvements at W. Kerr Scott Lake in a National Public Lands Day effort. The lake's trails, picnic areas, and wildlife will benefit from a variety of activities carried out by 14 Boy- and Girl Scout troops, individual volunteers, and four other organizations. Regional businesses and organizations made donations that supported the effort.

In early morning fog, the volunteers assembled to raise the flag, as steam spiraled up from the lake. By nine o'clock, the mist had burned away, the colors streamed out against a brilliant blue sky, and the sun looked down on busy groups of people.

Under one tent, youngsters donned work aprons donated by Lowes' and hammered away at bluebird and wood duck nesting boxes. Up on the mountain-side, another group nailed down the planks that would finish a new observation deck overlooking the lake. Others planted trees and cleared brush on a walking trail, picked up trash along the Yadkin River trail, and worked to build another multi-purpose trail. On the shoreline, people poured concrete to make anchors for fish attractors, which provide hideouts and havens for game fish in the lake. Others assembled almost a dozen new picnic tables designed to be wheelchair-accessible, cruised the lake and shoreline picking up trash, and improved parking areas with new striping and bumpers.

Many hands working together accomplished much more than project TEAM members or contract employees could do in weeks of work. "We plan to make this an annual event at Scott," said Project Manager Eric Jeffcoat. "It does so much for our project. And it's a great opportunity for people to get together, enjoy the Lake, and even earn some merit badges!"

The morning's hard work ended with a hot-dog and hamburger feast donated by sponsors and prepared by Scott Lake retirees Andy Duncan (former Project Manager), Kenny Austin (former Assistant Project Manager) and Wade Parsons (married to retiree Judy Parsons). TEAM members from Scott and Philpott Lakes help serve. Volunteers also



District Deputy Commander, MAJ George Shepard, presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Along the shoreline, volunteers poured concrete anchors for fish attractors.



Almost a dozen new wheelchair-accessible picnic tables were assembled.

attended from Wilmington District, including Major Shepard and his family, and Scout Leaders Howard Varnam and Dee Dee Fauser, who camped with their troops in the Bandits Roost camping area. John Golden, retired from District Headquarters, demonstrated hand-made leatherwork and provided live music to accompany the sound of hammers, drills and rakes.

Other attractions included an animal rescue group who brought birds, a possum, a skunk, snakes and exotic bugs for the youngsters to see and touch. National Guardsmen were there to demonstrate equipment and paint kids' faces in camouflage colors. Several members of North Carolina natural resource agencies also volunteered to help with the day's activities.

Sponsors for the W. Kerr Scott Lake National Public Lands Day event included:

- Chem-Care, Inc.
- County of Wilkes Dept. of Solid Waste
- Environmental Forestry Services
- Graphics Warehouse
- Harold's Restaurant
- Igloo Restaurant
- Interflex Group
- Little Market Basket
- Lowe's Food
- Lowe's Hardware
- NC Forest Service
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission and Fisheries
- National Guard
- Northwest Toyota
- Vulcan Materials
- Wal-Mart
- Waste Management



A Girl Scout Troop in their work aprons, which were donated by Lowe's to volunteers.



Just for fun, National Guardsmen painted children's faces with camouflage.



A cheerful Cub Scout works on the multipurpose trail.



Bluebird and wood duck nesting boxes were constructed with the help of adults.

TERRORISTS ATTACK

September 11, 2001



World Trade
Center
New York City



GROUND ZERO



Above: Wilmington District's Captain Billy Cuthrell, Captain Ray Bleam and Assistant Master George Loveless assisted the crew of New York District vessel, HAYWOOD, in evacuation and supply activities.

District TEAM members respond to Our Nation's Call

By Penny Schmitt

Within moments of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, Wilmington District TEAM members were responding. Three just happened to be at New York Harbor, and others followed them into the search and recovery effort before the week was out. At the same time, another TEAM member went on active duty with the United States Coast Guard. Some District TEAM members also bid farewell to family called up to respond to the crisis or deployed overseas. At home, many did whatever they could to show their love of country, their sorrow at the tragic events, and their support for all the response efforts. The Washington Regulatory Office staff went together to donate blood. TEAM members at John H. Kerr Reservoir hosted a fundraiser for the United Way. Flags turned up on doorways and walls. Brief memorial services took place at the District's Headquarters and field offices. As the days and weeks go on, we'll be getting

on with life with a renewed sense of mission.

District fleet crew in first response

First on the scene were three members of the District's fleet. Captain

Billy Cuthrell of the Debris Boat SNELL, and Captain Ray Bleam and Assistant Master George Loveless of the Dredge MERRITT, were all in a classroom on the New Jersey side of the harbor the morning of September 11th. They looked out the window to see the Manhattan skyline burst into black smoke and flame as airplanes struck the World Trade Center.

The day's agenda quickly changed, and the three men joined up with New York District colleagues on their vessel, HAYWARD, to begin an all-day, all-night evacuation of people from Manhattan to New Jersey. "We transported 191 people, including expectant mothers, a person in a wheelchair and a person with a walker," Bleam said.

The three worked through the night and following day, taking a break for sleep on Wednesday evening. By morning, they were back on the job, now carrying food, water, gasoline and lubricating oil to fireboats and fire trucks working the rescue effort. "We were pumping the oil out into five-gallon buckets and passing them by hand to waiting crews."

"We're glad the timing was right for us to be here to help. We still can't believe what we are seeing here."

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Left to right: Gary Lee of the St. Louis District, Stewart Foltz of GRDC-CERL, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers LTG Flowers, and Wilmington District Engineer Rolando Serrano.

District TEAM, family Serving our Military



Roger Bullock, of the Wilmington District Construction team, was called to active duty with the United States Coast Guard in the first week after the attack. Bullock is currently stationed in Jacksonville, NC.

Shelly Lewis, Personnel Office Automation Assistant, was called to active duty with the Navy Reserves. Shelly is a Chief Petty Officer assigned to the Personnel Mobilization Team 1007 in Norfolk, VA.

Sherry Gaylor, the District's Small Business coordinator, has two sons deployed - CW2 David John Bassili, United States Army, and SSGT Joseph John Bassili, United States Air Force.

Jack Nelson, who works at the Engineer Yard, has a son, T.J. Nelson, who was called to active duty with the 916th Air Refueling Wing at Seymour-Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, NC. T.J. is a High School Physical Education teacher in Garner, NC.

Daniel Small in Project Management has a son and daughter-in-law serving stateside - Micah Small, a U.S. Air Force Air Base Security Instructor at McGuire AFB, NJ and Anita Small, a U.S. Air Force Medical Technician at McGuire AFB, NJ.

Gaye Bullard, of Finance & Accounting, reports that her son, Joshua D. Bullard, is on active duty with the U. S. Coast Guard.

Oweita Freeman in the Engineering Branch has a niece, Rhonda Sidberry, serving in the US Air Force.

SFC Love C. Jones, husband of Philpott computer support person Billie Jones, serves as the U.S. Army Recruiter in Martinsville, VA.

Dale Williams of Resources Management has family members indirectly involved with the War on Terrorism. Her husband Greg Williams and her brothers-in-law Howard Marshburn and Avance Sidberry are civilians delivering equipment to military bases. All three men are veterans. ▲

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Engineers join search and rescue effort

By September 13th, Wilmington District engineers Al Bjorkquist and Rolando Serrano were packed and ready to take up another role in the response effort. Both are trained in Urban Search and Rescue. Along with colleagues from other Corps Districts, they boarded an aircraft and headed for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

"It seemed pretty chaotic when we arrived there," Bjorkquist said. Within a day, however, they were asked to join a Search and Rescue Team from California and were assigned a work area by the New York Fire Department.

"Ground Zero is more like a demolition site than anything else," Bjorkquist said. "It's just a huge pile of twisted steel and crushed concrete. New fires started every time you opened an area up. It was still burning a week later when we left."

Serrano and Bjorkquist worked side by side for a full week. "The heavy equipment got debris out of the way, then every two or three hours, search and rescue crews would go in and search any cavities or open spaces that we could find. We worked as Structure Specialists. We did everything from holding flashlights and coordinating tools and equipment, to deciding what was safe to enter or safe to move out of the way," Bjorkquist explained.

As structural engineers, the two played an important role in making sure the rescue workers stayed safe. "One of our jobs was to monitor buildings and debris for movement," Serrano explained. "I had a laptop that received images from a remote-controlled camera positioned on top of a fire station. I also watched for victims." Bjorkquist and Serrano both assisted surveyors from the Philadelphia District. They carried bullhorns and blast horns to signal rescue workers to get out immediately if any building movement was detected.

All seven structures at the World Trade Center were destroyed and many surrounding buildings suffered heavy damage. A steel piece of the World Trade Center driven into a neighboring building was estimated to weigh 63 tons, Serrano said. It was one of the hazards being monitored.

"The brief periods when the rescue crews could work were totally exhausting," Serrano said. "We were going into buildings, up and down 40 flights of stairs in full gear and a respirator, and staying vigilant every second for hazards. It can get the best of you!"

Bjorkquist noted that support for the rescue workers was ever-present. "New Yorkers are tough people with big hearts. They were so helpful. Once Rolando and I missed our subway stop and ended up in Brooklyn. A guy realized we were lost. He got on the train with us and took us all the way back to the right stop. Another offered to pay for our lunch in gratitude for our efforts. These kinds of things happened more than once."

Restaurants in the area set up 24-hour-a-day operations near the site. "They were feeding us excellent food. Lamb chops, fish, things like that," Bjorkquist said. The restaurant crews worked to the point of exhaustion just like the thousands of rescue workers, he said.

Photos of the site give a close-up view of the massive, dense mountain of tangled cable, steel, and concrete that must be moved over the coming weeks and months. Unseen in the photos, yet painfully immediate to Serrano, Bjorkquist, and their fellow rescue workers, was the knowledge that thousands of men and women lay dead in the wreckage.

Their work had another dimension as well. "Everyone there had a story. Everyone. And they needed to tell their stories. Part of our job was to listen," Bjorkquist said. "At that moment nothing seemed more important than to listen to these guys. One firefighter I talked to had 30

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Clockwise from Above:

Using a laptop connected to a remote-controlled camera, Wilmington District Engineer Rolando Serrano watches for movement in the World Trade Center debris and surrounding buildings to assist rescuers as they search for victims.

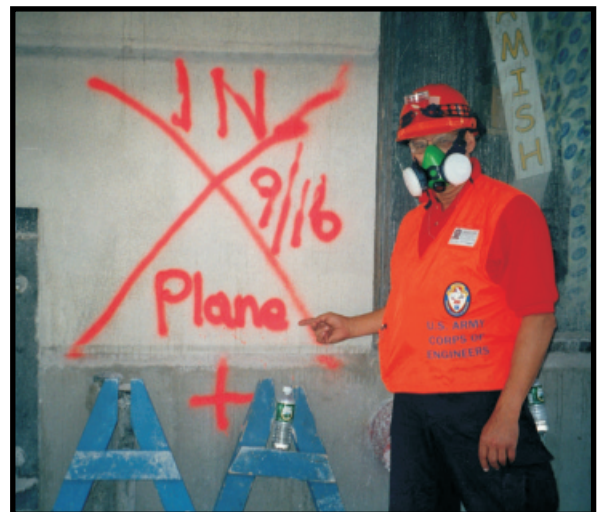
Damage to a New York City Police car parked a block away from the World Trade Center shows the intensity of the blast.

Wilmington District Engineer Al Bjorkquist (right) surveys the wreckage for movement to determine safety risks for rescuers and debris removal.

Wearing his "Ground Zero" respirator, Bjorkquist points out markings that indicate a rescue team has searched the building for victims. Symbols tell who did the search and when, and the cause or "threat."

Secretary of the Army Thomas White in a Corps of Engineers hardhat with Jim Hone, rescue team leader for Serrano and Bjorkquist.

*Photos by
Al Bjorkquist and Rolando Serrano*



82nd Airborne trains at Corps Lock & Dam

By Phil Edge, Lockmaster



Three 82nd Airborne platoons conducted nighttime training exercises at Wilmington Districts William O. Husk Lock and Dam.

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division paddled Zodiac boats twenty miles down the Cape Fear River from Fayetteville to Wilmington, North Carolina. After making landfall about 500 meters from the dam, each platoon moved in to attack a mock rebel camp set up in the lock recreation area.

The "rebel force" camped on the lock recreation area for three days and was equipped with an M-60 mortar, faux AK-47 rifles and razor wire barricades to simulate realistic combat conditions.

Soldiers wore Miles System harnesses that light up when hit by lasers on rifles that fired blank 7.62 rounds during the maneuvers.

"The training at Husk Lock was awesome," said Captain Scott Kelly. The Company had recently returned to Fort Bragg after a five-month deployment in Kosovo.

For safety reasons, the William O. Husk Lock and Dam property was closed to the public during the nighttime training exercises, but local patrons didn't seem to mind. They understood the importance training our troops. ▲



Almost 200 people lost their lives when a terrorist-controlled jet crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C

Continued from page 6

friends and colleagues missing. He had seen his boss die when a person who jumped out of the tower landed on him."

"Even for me, I'm not sure that the events of September 11th seem real yet," Bjorkquist said. "I taught a class in the World Trade Center 15 years ago. I was there. This place felt like a movie

set or like it must be on a battlefield. So unreal."

After a week of unrelenting work, the two have returned home to Wilmington, their families, and their every day missions. We're proud of them for the demanding, dangerous, dirty, saddening job they have done for all of us. ▲



John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir hosted a candlelight vigil and fundraiser sponsored by the Mecklenburg County United Way. The event brought more than 150 people together to honor and remember victims of the terrorist attacks. The event raised about \$550.

Aboard Flight 564

By Peter Hannaford

As it was at most U.S. airports, last Saturday was the first near-normal day at Denver International since the terrorist attacks. On United's Flight 564 the door had just been locked and the plane was about to pull out of the gate when the captain came on the public address system.

"I want to thank you brave folks for coming out today. We don't have any new instructions from the federal government, so from now on we're on our own."

The passengers listened in total silence.

He explained that airport security measures had pretty much solved the problem of firearms being carried aboard, but not weapons of the type the terrorists apparently used, plastic knives or those fashioned from wood or ceramics.

"Sometimes a potential hijacker will announce that he has a bomb. There are no bombs on this aircraft and if someone were to get up and make that claim, don't believe him.

"If someone were to stand up, brandish something such as a plastic knife and say 'This is a hijacking' or words to that effect here is what you should do: Every one of you should stand up and immediately throw things at that person pillows, books, magazines, eyeglasses, shoes anything that will throw him off balance and distract his attention. If he has a confederate or two, do the same with them. Most important: get a blanket over him, then wrestle him to floor and keep him there. We'll land the plane at the nearest airport and the authorities will take it from there."

"Remember, there will be one of him and maybe a few confederates, but there are 200 of you. You can overwhelm them.



"The Declaration of Independence says 'We, the people' and that's just what it is when we're up in the air: we, the people, vs. would-be terrorists. I don't think we are going to have any such problem today or tomorrow or for a while, but some time down the road, it is going to happen again and I want you to know what to do.

"Now, since we're a family for the new few hours, I'll ask you to turn to the person next to you, introduce yourself, tell them a little about yourself and ask them to do the same."

The end of this remarkable speech brought sustained clapping from the passengers. He had put the matter in perspective. If only the passengers on those ill-fated flights last Tuesday had been given the same talk, I thought, they

might be alive today. One group on United Flight 93, which crashed in a Pennsylvania field, apparently rushed the hijackers in an attempt to wrest control from them. While they perished, they succeeded in preventing the terrorist from attacking his intended goal, possibly the White House or the Capitol.

Procedures for dealing with hijackers were conceived in a time when the hijackers were usually seeking the release of jailed comrades or a large amount of money. Mass murder was not their goal. That short talk last Saturday by the pilot of Flight 564 should set a new standard of realism.

Every passenger should learn the simple but potentially life-saving procedure he outlined. He showed his passengers that a hijacking does not have to result in hopelessness and terror, but victory over the perpetrators.

The Airline Pilots Association, the pilots' union, last week dropped its opposition to stronger cockpit doors and is now calling for retrofits. (It's opposition was based on pilot concerns about getting out easily in emergency situations.) The scandal of easily penetrated airport security will result in congressional calls for a federal takeover of the security system.

Previous efforts to reform security procedures and raise standards have been talked to death. This time, however, no lobbying efforts must be allowed to prevent airport security from getting the reforms that are needed: federal operation, rigorous training, decent pay and no foreign nationals eligible for employment. ▲

Peter Hannaford is a public affairs consultant.

Space Committee
H.T. Hale, LMO
David Franklin, RG
Marjorie George, PM
Shane Jones, IM
Robert Jordan, IM
Alverta Sandy, IM
Bob Sattin, OP-N
Rhonda Wiggins, RM

Records Coordinators

Executive Office
LuAnn Ricks

Emergency Management
Nancy Watkins

Office of Counsel
Dee Dee Fauser

**Civilian Personnel
Advisory Center**
April Ward

Contracting
Charlenne Figgins

Operations
Betsy Rogers

Resource Management
Linda Linder

Regulatory
Gwen Dye

Engineering Branch
Beverly Hensley

Coastal, Hydrology & Hydraulics
Sharon Day

Information Management
Sharon Sutton

Logistics Management
Nancy Cox

Construction Branch
Gloria Cliff

Project Management
Naomi Hazlett

**Public Affairs, Safety
Equal Employment Opportunity
Small Business, Internal Review**
Patricia Prentiss

Get Ready, Get Set, Move!

Space Plan Update

By Christine Bruske

After two years of detailed planning, spirited discussion and revolving design, it is time to get packing. The new District office "space plan" has been approved and construction is already underway in Quad 1. District Space Committee members have done a great, and fearless, job of preparing for this step-by-step workspace transformation. Now, it's up to every individual TEAM member to prepare for the move. Don't wait until moving day.

Trash Disposal

"Beginning in October, a big trash barrel will be placed in each quad--like the ones the cleaning crew uses," said former Chief of Logistics Management, Mike Taylor. "There will also be an extra dumpster behind the building. Everyone should start cleaning right away." Taylor served as team leader for the Space Committee, but has taken a new position at USACE headquarters. "After two years, the space plan feels like my baby," said Taylor. "I'm looking forward to visiting the District in a few months and seeing the progress."

Equipment and Supplies

"If anyone has old equipment, or equipment they don't use anymore, they need to turn it in to Logistics. If it's computer equipment, it needs to go to Information Management," said H. T. Hale, who will be taking over as Space Committee team leader. "We'll take unused office supplies too," said Hale. "Everything with a bar code needs to be turned in with a completed SAW 638 form." The SAW 638 is available on the Intranet Form Flow.

Document Storage

Old documents that may be needed in the future for project review, or for audits, should be boxed up for storage in the Records Holding Area (RHA). Each office or division is assigned a Records Coordinator (see side bar for list), who is responsible for completing the SF 135 for records to be stored in the RHA. The Logistics Management Office (LMO) has special boxes that are used in transferring records to the RHA. "The RHA is not a storage solution for active files," said Sheila Jack, the District's Records Manager. "It's only for inactive, but vital records." Documents stored in the RHA will eventually be destroyed or shipped to a National Archives Federal Records Center.

Moving Day

Each TEAM member is responsible for packing up his or her own office using boxes provided by LMO. District volunteers and the LMO staff will transport boxes and furniture into the new office space. TEAM members are asked to unpack right away and to return the boxes to LMO. "We want to recycle the boxes to keep cost down," said Taylor. TEAM members assigned to Quad 1 may begin moving as early as December 28, 2001.

Location, location, location

The Wilmington District TEAM has grown, but office space was not always available in the area of growth. As a result, some of the branches have TEAM members scattered throughout the building. "When we moved into this building

13 years ago, it was set up for the organization we were 13 years ago," said Bob Sattin, Chief of Navigation and Space Committee member. "This time, we've applied the PMBP (Project Management Business Process). We've thought about what we'll look like, and how we'll be doing business, in 15 years and planned for it."

"We have an opportunity to fix our physically disjointed organization," said David Franklin, a Regulatory Project Manager, whose office is located in Navigation. "After the move, we'll have a more logical arrangement of offices and branches so that TEAM members with close working ties can coordinate their efforts. Our goal was to improve interaction within and between branches."

Offices that have frequent contact with the public like Public Affairs, Human Resources and Security, will be relocated to the front of the building.

Better Work Environment

After the move, each Quad will have a dramatically new look. High cubical walls will be replaced with 5-foot partitions. "The shorter partitions will improve air circulation and natural lighting," said committee member Robert Jordan (IM). "Everyone will be able to see a window when they stand up."

Some TEAM members are concerned that the lower partitions will create a noisy work environment, but Space Committee Members think TEAM member will acclimate quickly. "People might have to speak a little softer at first, but then they'll get used to it and it won't bother them," said Jordan. "Being able to hear what your neighbor is working on may even enhance work group involvement. If you don't know something, maybe your neighbor does."

In addition to the lower partitions, new office spaces will have improved telecommunica-

tions networks. "The wiring will be different in the new offices and systems will be faster," said Shane Jones of Information Management.

Committee member Marjorie George (PM) noted that the new space plan adds two additional conference rooms to the District building layout. "It will be a lot easier to schedule meetings with our stakeholders."

Final Decisions

Making a decision while keeping everyone happy is a rare achievement. Making hundreds of decisions while keeping hundreds of people happy is very nearly impossible. "We've worked really hard to include input from District TEAM members," said Rhonda Wiggins of the Resource Management Office. "We've seriously considered everyone's concerns and we've done our best to make good choices."

"I have really appreciated COL DeLony's leadership," said Alverta Sandy of IM and Union representative on the Space Committee. "He spelled out what he wanted and he stuck to it. That gave us some specifics to work from. With so many variables, it was good to have some constant reference points. We think everyone will be pleased with



HR CORNER

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Premiums will increase in 2002

Compiled by Jackie Cook

The United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced insurance premiums for the year 2002 will increase for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), which covers roughly nine million employees, retirees and their families.

The new health benefits premiums go into effect in January 2002. On average, FEHBP enrollees who have self-only coverage will pay roughly \$4.32 more biweekly, while those with family coverage will pay \$11.57 more biweekly.

Reflecting industry trends, the overall average FEHB increase will be 13 percent, with premiums for Health Maintenance Organizations increasing an average 14 percent, while the more traditional Fee-for-Service plans will see an average increase of 13 percent.

Factors contributing to the premium increase include the utilization of prescription drugs and medical services, advances in medical technology and a covered population that continues to age. These are consistent with trends seen elsewhere.

There is a significant program change in the largest plan in the FEHB Program. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan is merging its High Option into Standard Option and will add a new Basic Option. Enrollees are encouraged to use the FEHBP website at www.opm.gov/insure/health to review health insurance plan changes. TEAM members enrolled in other health insurance plans can also find information at this website.

During the FEHBP open season, which runs from November 12 to December 10, eligible federal employees and retirees can stay with their current health plan or select a new one.

Employees wishing to enroll or change enrollment must use the Army Benefits Center Civilian (ABC-C). An employee may call the toll-free number 877-276-9287 or access the web site at <http://www.abc.army.mil/>.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) point of contact is Jackie Cook, (910) 251-4874. ▲

New Members to the District



Bernadette Smallwood, Regulatory Program Assistant, Washington Office. Bernadette transfers to the Wilmington District after four years at Fort Drum in New York. Bernadette has 17 years of service with the Department of the Army. Her husband, Johnnie Junior, recently retired from the Army. Bernadette and her husband have three children, Cherrelle, Sherice and Johnnie III. They now reside in Washington, NC.



Ashley Shaver, Civil Engineer, Coastal H&H. Ashley, a native of Wilmington, comes to the Wilmington District after three years with an environmental consulting firm. She attended NC State University where she earned her undergraduate degree in Environmental Engineering. Ashley is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Administration at UNC-Wilmington.



Kevin Yates, Co-op, Regulatory Division. Kevin is pursuing a Master's Degree in Marine Science at UNC-Wilmington. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources, Coastal and Marine Science, from NC State University. Kevin is originally from Beaufort, NC.



Donald Peterson, Accountant, Finance & Accounting. Donald earned his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from NC State University and his Master's in Accounting from UNC-Wilmington. Donald says he's an "Army Brat" borne in Hawaii. His father is on active duty and his family's local home is Fayetteville, NC.



Mark Arcuri, Hydraulic Engineer, Coastal H&H. Mark comes to the Wilmington District after eight years with a private engineering firm. He is experienced in environmental assessment, land development design and municipal utility design. Mark earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from UNC-Charlotte. Mark's wife, Jennifer, is a marine biologist with NOAA-Federal Marine Fisheries.



Josh Grenert, Student Trainee, IM. Josh is a Senior at UNC-Wilmington majoring in Computer Science. He will graduate in May 2002. Josh is from Mooresville, NC.



Anita Bisette, Managerial Accountant, Resource Management. Anita previously held a position as Controller at Queensboro Steel & Metals USA. She earned an MBA from UNC-Wilmington. Anita and her husband, Chief of Program Management Wayne Bisette, have two daughters, Betsy and Caitlin. They reside in Wilmington.



Tim Smith, Regulatory Specialist, Asheville Office. Tim comes to the Wilmington District after more than four years in the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers. He served as Biologist in the L.A. District Planning Division working on watershed studies and ecosystem restoration projects. Tim earned his B.S. in Environmental Administration from the University of Evansville and an M.S. in Environmental Science from Indiana University.

Congratulations to **Mike Taylor**, former Chief of LMO. Mike was selected for promotion to a GS-13 Community Planner position with USACE headquarters in Washington DC. COL DeLony presented Mike with the Commander's Award at the farewell ceremony.



Congratulations to **Margaret Craven** on her well deserved promotion to GS-9, Engineering Technician in the Technical Services Division.

Congratulations to IM's **Jocelyn Collins** who graduated this month from Webster University with a Master's Degree in Computer Resource and Information Management.



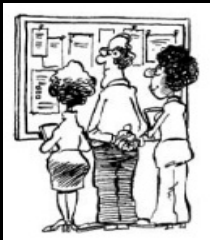
Five-year-old **Maria Blair Serrano**, daughter of Construction Engineer and proud father **Rolando Serrano**, was crowned "Carolina Mini Miss Queen" at the Carolina Miss Beauty Pageant.



Farewell and Best Wishes to IM's **Bud Davis**. Bud retired after 27 years of federal service.

Shane Jones, family and friends will be performing at the Festival of Trees, held at the Hilton in downtown Wilmington, on Saturday, November 24th, 2:00 to 3:30 PM. Instrumentation will include Steel Drums, Marimba, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, other percussion and wind instruments.

The hand bell choir of St. John's Episcopal Church will also perform at the Festival of Trees on Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30 PM. Shane Jones is a member of the hand bell choir.



Corps Family News



Retiree News

By Bob Swart

There were 13 folks gathered around the table this month. The following were in attendance: Bettye and Bob Swart, Lawrence Crawley, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Joe Lewis, Bob Doetsch, Doris and Ken Old, Virginia Uzzell, Dan Grimsley, David Stillman, and Augustus B. Moore Jr.

With all of the things happening in our nation, there had to be somebody in our group who got caught up in the mess. Dan and Jean Grimsley and their daughter, Amy (AA Flight attendant) had flown to Utah to tour the National and state parks. They got stranded in Salt Lake City and had to purchase a car to get home. Dan appeared quite happy to be home. Once again there were several regular attendees who were not present. In checking with Max Grimes, he and Gwen had gone to the funeral of Gwen's aunt. Gloria and Paul Woodberry had gone to visit Gloria's mother who is having some health problems. Kay and Buddy Johnson where at the doctor's office, trying to identify the source of Kay's back pains. Mr. Peck Long has been in the Liberty Commons Nursing Home since he had a pacemaker installed for his heart. He does not anticipate a long stay at the facility. Sadly, Mary and Paul Denison recently lost their daughter, Sandy, to cancer. We hope and pray for the very best for all these folks.

Joe Lewis has been checking out another one of those church eating functions. This time it was the Advent Christian Church, which had come down to the sound to baptize some of their people and had a meal afterwards. Joe said the food was good, but it did not come up to the Methodist feasts. I am not real sure, but it seems Joe has fallen upon something to help out with grocery bill. It looks like it's becoming a habit with him.

Once again Gus didn't record anything in the meeting book. He did, however, get into some discussion of his culinary effort -- he has been making kudzu jelly and pear preserves. He indicated that the kudzu jelly was very good and when questioned about bringing some of it to the meeting, something was said about four dollars a jar. Leave it to Gus, but it was good to know that something can be done with that aggravating vine.

Hope to see some more of you folks back with us next month. Mark the date on your calendars, Thursday, 1 November. Come and have lunch with us. Share some of the things that have been happening to you. We will be looking for you.

ATTENTION RETIREES: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), now runs the Medicare and joint federal-state Medicaid programs. Health and Human Services Secretary, Tommy Thompson, said CMS will launch a national media campaign this fall to educate Seniors on their Medicare options. For more information visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life



**American Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, November 1st
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Wilmington District
Corps of Engineers Building**

**All Wilmington District TEAM members and retirees asked to sign up now
in the Public Affairs Office!**

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,
WILMINGTON
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, N.C. 28402-1890



***Wilmington
District News***